

CLAIM AMENDMENTS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims

1. (Currently Amended) A content switch managed by a network provider for use in routing packets to application providers in a computer based communications system that uses instructions recorded on a computer-readable storage medium, the storage medium comprising:
instructions for sending a document to a parser;
instructions for fetching : a parser for parsing a schema document associated with a
packet and containing routing rules;
instructions for validating the fetched document;
instructions for passing the validated document to a routing instruction processor;
instructions for interpreting to interpret the routing rules in the schema document; and
instructions for redirecting packets to a specified server,
~~- the routing instruction processor connected to a top side of the parser; and~~
~~an HTTP analysis layer connected to a bottom side of the parser, the bottom side being~~
~~opposite the top side~~
wherein each application provider defines switching policies, and
wherein administrative domains of the content switch and application servers are
separated.

2. (Currently Amended) The content switch as defined recited in claim 1, further comprising instructions for parsing XML-based language.

3. (Currently Amended) A method of carrying out content switching for application providers in a network provider of a computer-based communications system that uses instructions recorded on a computer-readable storage medium, the medium comprising:

instructions for adding parsing capabilities to a content switch;

instructions for adding routing information to a schema;

instructions that determine determining a routing action to be taken on packets of a flow associated with a document written according to a the schema, wherein the determination is made by applying routing rules contained in the schema to elements parsed from the document; and; and

instructions that route routing the packets according to the determined routing action,

wherein determining the routing action is performed by a routing instruction processor, the elements are parsed from the document by a parser, and the parser is connected between the routing instruction processor and an HTTP analysis layer each application provider defines switching policies, and

wherein administrative domains of the content switch and application servers are separated.

4. (Currently Amended) The method as defined recited in claim 3 wherein further comprising comprises instructions for using an XML based language is used.

5. (Currently Amended) A system for use in routing traffic to application providers in a network provider of a computer based communications network that uses instructions recorded on a computer-readable storage medium, the medium comprising:

instructions for adding parsing capabilities to a content switch;

instructions for adding routing information to a schema;

instructions for a content switch having a routing instruction processor capable of interpreting routing rules in a document written according to a schema associated with a packet and applying the rules to elements in the network, the rules being parsed from the document by a parser, and means to ; and

instructions that determine a routing action to be performed on packets from a packet flow associated with the document,

wherein the parser is connected between the routing instruction processor and an HTTP analysis layer each application provider defines switching policies, and wherein administrative domains of the content switch and application servers are separated.

6. (Original) The system as defined recited in claim 5, further comprising instructions for parsing XML-based languages.
7. (Currently Amended) A computer program schema comprising instructions stored on a computer-readable storage medium for use in a network provider of a computer based communications system, the medium comprising: having a routing instruction processor, a parser, and an HTTP analysis layer, the parser connected between the routing instruction processor and the HTTP analysis layer, the schema including routing rules, which, when accessed to parse a document written in the language of the schema,
instructions for adding parsing capabilities to a content switch;
instructions for adding routing information to a schema;
instructions that provide routing actions to be taken on packets belonging to a traffic flow associated with the a document written in the language of the schema; and and
instructions for routing the packets accordingly to application providers,
wherein each application provider defines switching policies, and
wherein administrative domains of the content switch and application servers are separated.
8. (Original) The schema as defined in claim 7, further comprising instructions for allowing

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a trusted customer of the network provider to define switching policies wherein the routing rules are defined by an application provider.